

I Claim:

1. A placement indicator for use with a climbing cam having opposed cam members, comprising:
visible placement indicia placed on each of said opposed cam members.
2. The placement indicator according to claim 1 wherein the visible placement indicia correlates the quality of cam placement in a rock.
3. The placement indicator according to claim 2 wherein each cam defines a rock-contacting surface and a side surface, and wherein the visible indicia are placed on the side surface.
4. The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a color-coded marking in which the color of the indicia correlates to the quality of cam placement in the rock.
5. The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a graduated scale marking in which the scale graduations of the indicia correlate to the quality of cam placement in the rock.
6. The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a color-coded and graduated scale marking in which the markings correlate to the quality of cam placement in the rock.
7. The placement indicator according to claim 4 wherein the color-coded markings further comprise a red zone, and yellow zone and a green zone.
8. The placement indicator according to claim 7 wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of the rock-contacting surface.

9. In a climbing cam having at least one pair of opposing arcuate cam members configured for contacting rock surfaces in a crack in a rock, the improvement comprising:
indicia on each of said cam members capable of indicating cam placement quality.
10. The climbing cam according to claim 9 wherein the opposing arcuate cam members are pivotally movable between a fully open position in which the cam members contact rock surfaces and a fully closed position in which the cam members contact rock surfaces, and wherein the indicia on each of said cam members defines a graduated placement quality scale extending from the fully open position to the fully closed position.
11. The climbing cam according to claim 9 wherein the indicia further comprises color-coded indicia in which the color of the indicia correlates to the quality of cam placement in the crack.
12. The climbing cam according to claim 11 wherein the color-coded markings further comprise a red zone, and yellow zone and a green zone.
13. The climbing cam according to claim 12 wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of a rock-contacting surface of the cam members.
14. A visual placement indicator for a climbing cam of the type having opposed cams, comprising:
indicia means on said cams for providing a visual assessment of the quality of cam placement.

15. The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises color coding means for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.
16. The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises a graduated scale for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.
17. The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises a color-coded graduated scale for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.
18. The visual placement indicator according to claim 15 in which the color coding means comprises plural color coded zones including a red zone, a yellow zone and a green zone.
19. The visual placement indicator according to claim 18 in which each cam defines a rock-contacting surface, and wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of the rock-contacting surface.
20. The visual placement indicator according to claim 19 wherein each cam further defines a cam side surface and wherein the colored zones are marked on the cam side surface.